

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/852,651

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an optical fiber by drawing a preform, the method including comprising:

[[[-]] determining variations in the optical or geometric characteristics of the preform departing from its intended design characteristics of the preform prior to heating the preform for drawing the optical fiber, and

[[[-]] modifying the a diameter of the optical fiber during drawing as a function of said determined variations to compensate the effect of said variations on the propagation characteristics of the optical fiber.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the preform has a constant outside diameter and the determination step of determining said variations includes measuring the diameter of the a core of the preform.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the diameter of the optical fiber is modified so that the a relative variation in said diameter is in the opposite a direction opposite to the a relative variation in the diameter of the core of the preform.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said geometrical characteristics ~~are geometrical characteristics such as the~~ include a diameter of the preform, ~~the~~ radii of the layers of the preform or ~~the~~ a diameter of ~~the~~ a core of the preform.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said optical characteristics ~~are optical characteristics such as the~~ include indices of ~~the various~~ layers of the preform.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ modifications to the diameter of the optical fiber are less than a predetermined limit value.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the modifications to the diameter of the optical fiber are less than 2 μm .

8. (Currently) The method of claim 1, wherein the modifications to the diameter of the optical fiber are less than +2% of the nominal diameter of the fiber.

9. (Canceled) An optical fiber obtained by the method of claim 1.